

DRAFT

Sims Valley

Community Lake

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2015-2024



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Sims Valley Community Lake, #6213
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1963
- **Acreage:** 107 acres
- **County:** Howell
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

Sims Valley Community Lake provides public use on 107 acres between Mountain View and Willow Springs, Missouri. The primary purpose of the area is to provide quality fishing opportunities and to manage and conserve the natural resources.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Sims Valley Community Lake is an area with healthy, well-managed aquatic and terrestrial resources that provides quality opportunities for citizens to enjoy nature.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

A. **Priority Areas:** None

B. **Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.

B. **Caves:** None

C. **Springs:** None

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 1 boat ramp (electric motors only)
- 1 fishing jetty/platform, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- 2 parking lots (ADA accessible); south lot will accommodate boat trailer parking; north lot is for cars only
- 2 picnic tables
- 1 privy (ADA accessible)
- Sims Valley Community Lake (41 acres)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations: None

B. Federal Interest: Federal funds were used in the development of this area, or a portion thereof. The Department must maintain the developed project throughout its useful life. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: No known cultural resources.

E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials: None observed.

F. Endangered Species: None observed.

G. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain grounds surrounding the lake for public users to enjoy.
- 2) Conduct sound resource management.

Management Objective 1: Manage a naturally developing stand of timber along the lake edge to enhance the aesthetics of the area and to aid in erosion control.

Strategy 1: Allow natural succession to continue. Monitor forest health and respond, as needed, to address insect or disease outbreaks (Forestry).

Strategy 2: Monitor and control invasive exotic species (Forestry).

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide diverse quality angling opportunities compatible with the aquatic resources of the lake.

Management Objective 1: Provide quality fish populations that offer diverse angling opportunities.

Strategy 1: Follow management practices as outlined in the 2014-2024 Sims Valley Lake Fisheries Management Plan (Fisheries).

Strategy 2: Conduct nighttime electrofishing samples every three years to assess the sportfish population. (Fisheries).

Strategy 3: Annually stock channel catfish (Fisheries).

Strategy 4: Defer lake management decisions to the appropriate Fisheries Management Biologist (Fisheries).

Management Objective 2: Use appropriate fisheries management tools to maintain or improve the quality of fishing. Manage aquatic habitat, and vegetation at 25% of lakes surface.

Strategy 1: Promote better catch rates with periodic placements of brush piles or artificial fish attractors to help concentrate sportfish (Fisheries).

Strategy 2: Use herbicides for aquatic vegetation control. Water willow and cattails can develop problematic densities and impede successful angling. Spot treatment of aquatic approved glyphosate herbicide will be applied where plant densities dictate (Fisheries).

Strategy 3: Regularly remove trees and shrubs in the fenced, spillway area and mow the dam to keep it clear of small brush to discourage burrowing animals (Fisheries).

Management Objective 3: Increase public awareness of the area and angling opportunities to maintain or improve public use and satisfaction.

Strategy 1: Prepare, as needed, news releases for regulation changes and to inform the public of fishing opportunities (Outreach and Education, Fisheries).

Strategy 2: Prepare lake report and fishing prospects for inclusion in *Fishing Prospects at Selected Missouri Lakes and Streams* for years samples have occurred (Fisheries).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide a safe inviting environment for public recreational opportunities.

Management Objective 1: Provide adequate angler accessibility and associated public use facilities to support current level of public use.

Strategy 1: Maintain infrastructure on a as needed basis to ensure parking lots, boat ramp, floating fishing dock, courtesy dock, and privies are in good condition. (Forestry, Fisheries, Design and Development)

Management Objective 2: Provide angler and area information.

Strategy 1: Maintain fishing regulations signs in accordance with Department guidelines outlined in the Sign Manual.(Forestry, Fisheries)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Ensure boundary lines are easily identifiable.

Management Objective 1: Maintain boundary lines so that they are easy to locate.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs and re-paint boundary lines every five years or as needed (Forestry).

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Aquatic Resource Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2		X			X			X		

APPENDICES

Area Background:

On Feb. 11, 1963 the Commission approved the recommendation for the development of a community lake in Howell County, Missouri. The site chosen was is 8 miles west of Mountain View and 6 miles east of Willow Springs, Missouri. Approval was given with the understanding that the local communities would buy the land and deed it to the Commission. The lake is approximately 41 acres in size and has been open to fishing since 1966.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Lake/Pond	41	38
Upland Forest	36	34
Old Fields/Upland Fields	15	14
Mowed Lawn	14.78	14
Total	106.78	100

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (1992). *Sims Valley Community Lake limited area plan*. West Plains, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Scott, M. (2013). *Sims Valley Lake fisheries management plan*. West Plains, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 1: Area Map

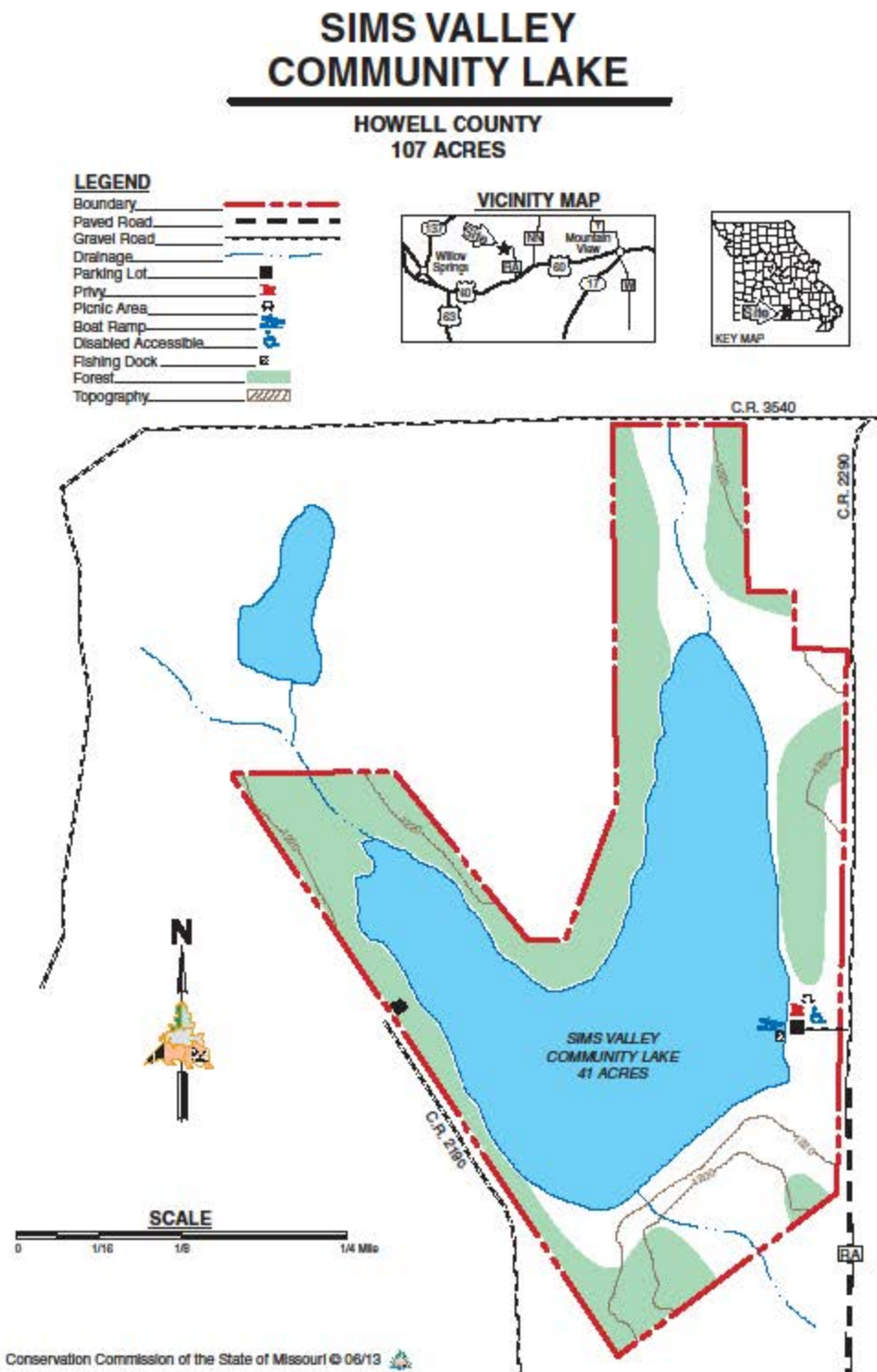


Figure 2: Aerial Map

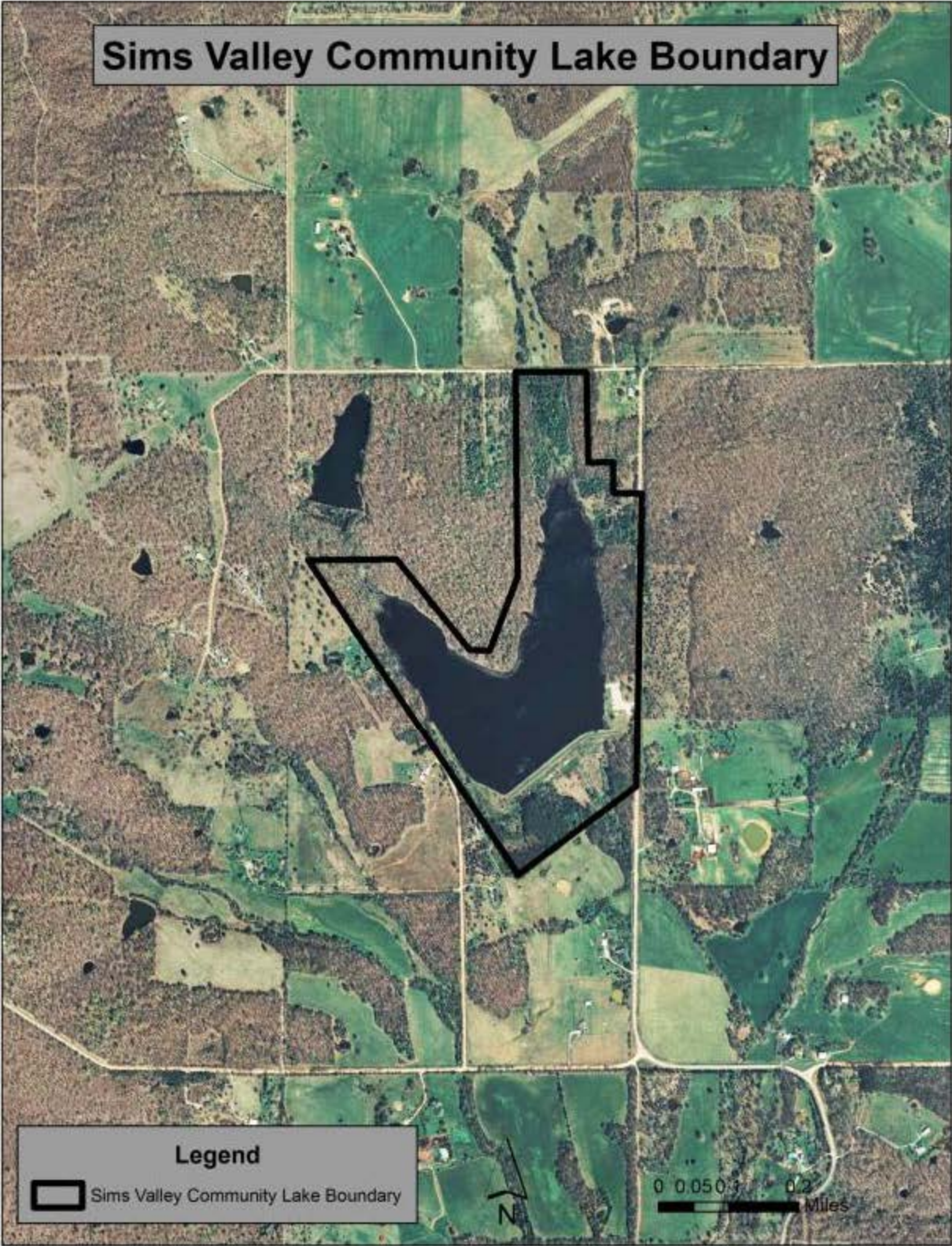
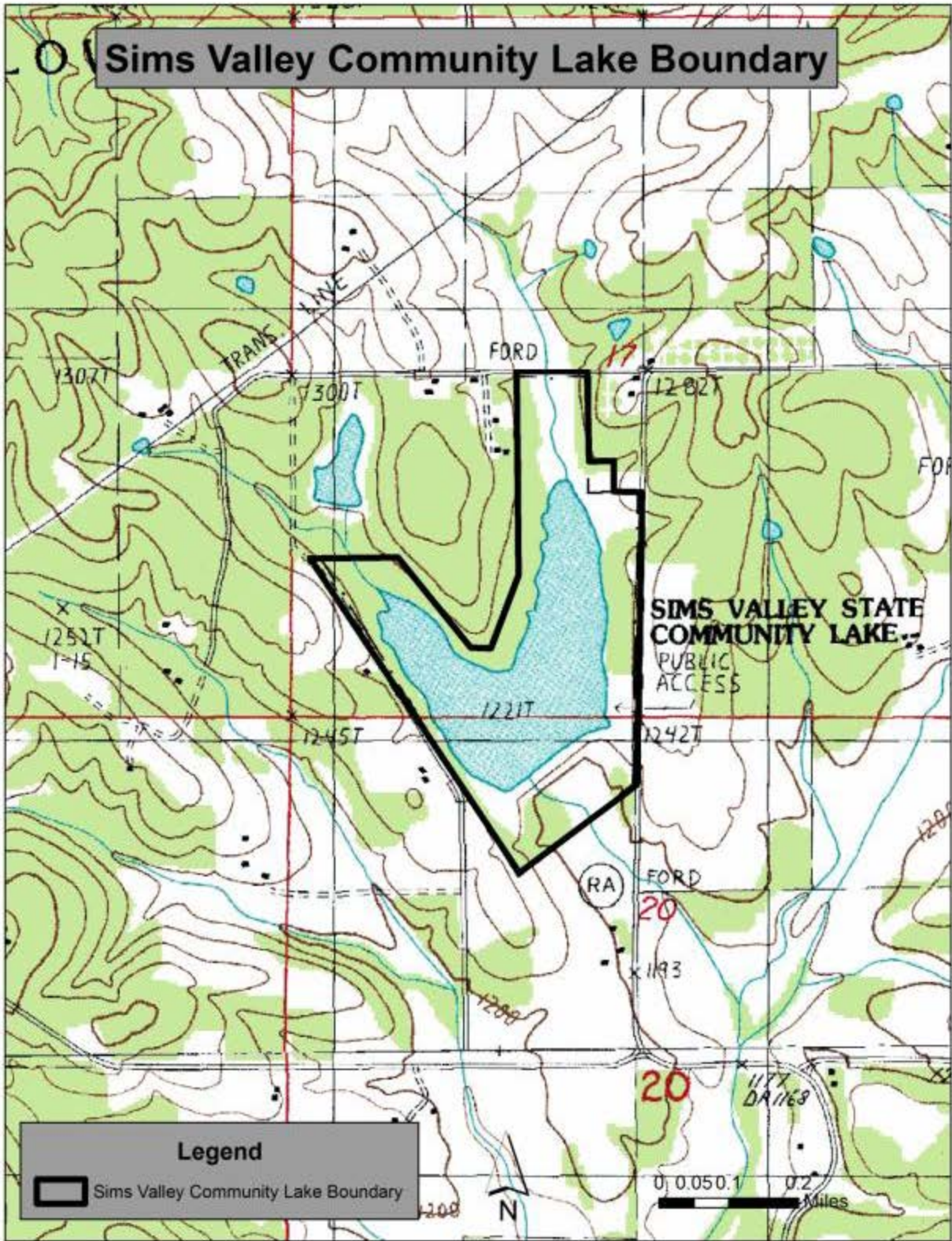


Figure 3: Topographic Map



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